



Attorney Docket No. 3177-69131

IFW
1732

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nancy Williamson et al.
Serial No.: 10/009,787 Confirmation No. 5811
Filed: 01 June 2000 Examiner: Fontaine, Monica A.
For: WELDABLE MOUNT FOR FUEL SYSTEMS COMPONENT

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MARCH 12, 2004
AND REMARKS RE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MAY 25, 2004 INTERVIEW.

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450)



23643

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

The interview with examiners Michael Colaianni and Monica A. Fontaine on May 25 is acknowledged with appreciation. The examiner's summary of the interview appears to be an accurate and complete statement of what transpired at the interview.

Each of independent claims 13, 20, 24 and 29 were discussed and it was agreed that these claims, as well as the claims dependent thereon, avoid the prior art rejection of record.

In particular, it was agreed that the prior art patent to Rosas (U.S. Patent No. 5,975,116) does not teach or suggest the vent apparatus of claim 13 including a tank mount made from a weldable plastics material, coupled to the top wall of the valve housing, and formed to include an outer rim adapted to be coupled to the fuel tank to support the cylindrical sleeve within the tank, an annular rib formed to be received within the annular channel of the flange of the top wall, and a top wall coupled to and positioned to lie between the outer rim and the annular rib, the tank mount being positioned to cause the top wall of the tank mount and the top wall of the valve housing to lie in coplanar relation with one another.

In Rosas there is no such annular channel, annular rib and coplanar relation.

Claim 20 recites a tank mount coupled to the top wall of the valve housing and formed to include an outer rim adapted to be coupled to the fuel tank to support the cylindrical sleeve within a mounting aperture of the tank and an annular rib formed to be received within the annular channel of the flange, and wherein the valve housing includes a locator tab coupled to the annular flange and the annular rib includes a notch formed to receive the locator tab of the valve housing in order to prevent rotation between the valve housing and the tank mount. Rosas does not teach or suggest the annular rib, channel, locator tab and notch as recited in claim 20.

Claim 24 recites a tank mount made from a weldable plastics material and formed to be received within the channel of the flange of the top wall of the valve housing to cause the flange to completely surround the tank mount, the tank mount having a bottom surface adapted to be weldably coupled to the fuel tank in order to support the valve housing within a mounting aperture formed in the fuel tank. In Rosas there is no flange to completely surround the tank mount as recited in claim 24.

Claim 29 recites a tank mount made from a weldable plastics material, formed to include a T-shaped portion formed to be received within the channel of the flange of the top wall of the valve housing to cause the flange to completely surround the T-shaped portion and a base portion coupled to the T-shaped portion and adapted to be weldably coupled to the fuel tank in order to support the valve housing within a mounting aperture of the fuel tank. The Rosas '116 patent does not teach or suggest a T-shaped portion formed to be received within the channel of the flange as recited in claim 29.

A copy of the amendment filed November 12, 2001 canceling claims 1-2 and 34 and the post card showing receipt by the USPTO was provided to the examiner at the interview. The examiner will have the amendment entered.

Accordingly, all of the claims (claims 13-33) are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested.

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters that require further action.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 with reference to file 3177-69131.

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP



Richard B. Lazarus

Reg. No. 48,215

(202) 371-6348